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USAID Public Policy E-Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2011 – THE USAID COLOMBIA PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS LAW

The main objective of Law 1448 of 2011 known as the “Victims Law” is to establish the measures needed to enable the Victims of the Colombian conflict to fully enjoy their rights to truth, justice and reparation. The aim is to ensure that victims have access to all the rights and services afforded to them as Colombia citizens under the constitution. USAID’s Public Policy Program has been supporting the Colombian Government (GOC) in the regulation of the Law, with special focus on three specific areas:

Support in the design of a framework for national, regional and local public institutions to effectively deliver services to victims. The Program has been working closely with the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity, the Special Administrative Unit for Integral Assistance and Reparation to Victims, the Center for Historic Memory and the Regional Assistance and Reparation Centers to design the framework for integral and coordinated assistance to victims. The Program is working with the GOC to strategically use the information available in the National Information Network on Victims Assistance and Recovery, and to design an institutional structure which will ensure sustainability and coordination amongst all the entities.

Support the GOC to achieve flexible instruments to guarantee full enjoyment of rights and the development of a differentiated approach for service delivery with emphasis on housing and sustainable livelihoods. The activities will focus on the processes proposed by the GOC to ensure the full enjoyment of victims’ rights, such as a protocol for participation, and improving State programs and services to make them more flexible and pertinent to the victims’ needs. The USAID Public Policy Program is also supporting the design of instruments for benefit distribution and the establishment of graduation criteria for victims.

Support the GOC in the design of fiscally viable national and regional plans for the integral assistance and reparation for victims. Program supported activities include the consolidation of the National Plan for Integral Assistance and Reparation to Victims, establishing a base line methodology for the Victims Law to facilitate an impact evaluation, and conducting a fiscal analysis of the Law including the design of the financing plan.

Key Activities

Last month there were **IMPORTANT ADVANCES IN THE DESIGN OF THE FLEXIBLE RESPONSE AND SERVICE DELIVERY PROJECT**. One of the most relevant issues for the GOC is the identification of the gaps and obstacles for implementing a flexible response for service delivery to victims. The Program will support the GOC in identifying the gaps and obstacles in service delivery for housing, land, income generation, rehabilitation and nutrition. The Program's team of experts will provide the GOC with a set of recommendations for each sector, including the improvement or introduction of new regulations and recommendations on how to ensure and facilitate access to State services by the victims.

IMPORTANT ADVANCES IN THE REGULATION OF THE VICTIMS LAW AND DESIGN OF THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE INTEGRAL ASSISTANCE AND REPARATION FOR VICTIMS. The GOC is rapidly advancing with the regulatory process of the Victims Law. There are eight subcommittees working on the regulations, they include: Institutional; Information systems; Measures of Satisfaction; Collective Reparations; Rehabilitation and Assistance; Administrative Compensation; Prevention, Protection and No Repetition Guarantees; and Livelihoods and Income generation. The Program will develop a methodology to facilitate the broad consultation of the Plan in at least 6 different regions throughout the country and will support the consolidation of the results of the subcommittee discussions.

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROCESS. In response to a request by Accion Social and the High Commission for Good Governance, the Program has been defining the functions for the Head and Deputy of the Consolidation and Poverty Departments of the new Administrative Department for Social Prosperity (DAPS). The Deputy will have cross cutting tasks and will manage topics such as sustainable livelihoods, social innovation, infrastructure and housing. The two positions will have managerial responsibilities and the newly created Deputy will be a high profile post with functions similar to those of a Vice-Minister.